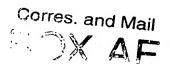
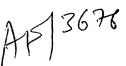
.61..







[22750/514]
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
GROUP ART UNIT 3676

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)

Christoph Hilgert

Serial No.

10/006,597

Filed

December 4, 2001

For

1, 2001

FLAT GASKET FOR A RECIPROCATING ENGINE

OR A DRIVEN MACHINE

Examiner

Michael J. Kyle

RECEIVED

Art Unit

3676

APR 2 1 2004

Confirmation No.

3533

GROUP 3600

Mail Stop **AF**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop **AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: April 15, 2004

Reg. No. 31,792

Signature:

Richard M. Rosati

RULE 116 AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action of March 12, 2004, please amend the above-referenced application without prejudice as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.